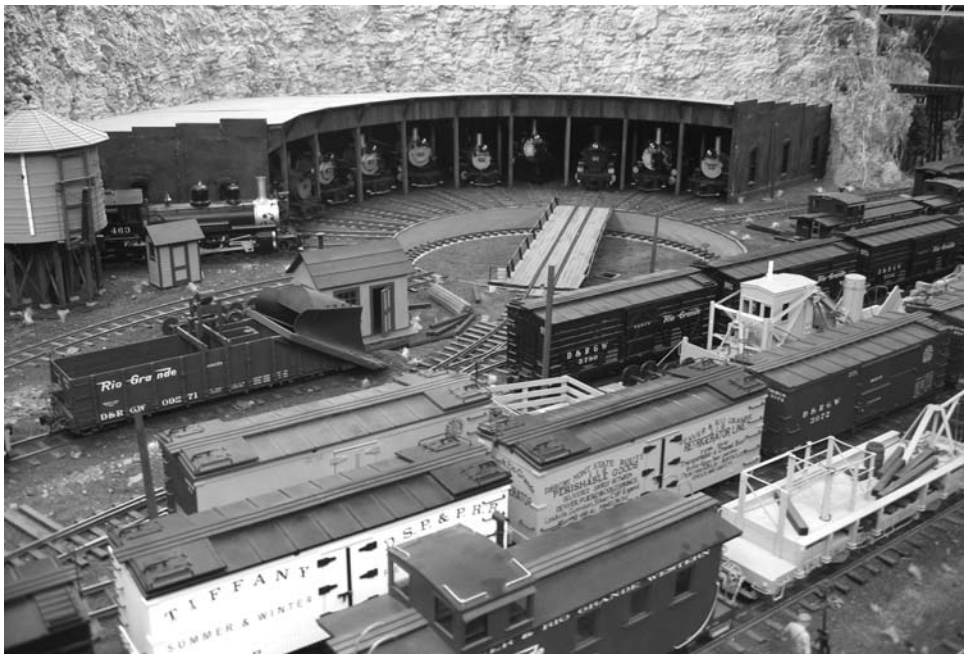
The Marker Lamp

Volume 54 **Number 2** **Spring 2008**



Barry Bogs great Narrow Gauge layout will be open on Thursday for viewing. This layout fills the second floor of his home and features contest winning scratchbuilt engines and carsIf you make this and the other loyouts west of town you will avoid the Houston traffic on your way to Zube Park.

Make plans for Houston in '08 June 18-22

www.houstonncrowd.org/div8

In This Issue

President's Message	3
Houston '08	4
Registration Form	5
Special Contest Houston '08	10
Company Store	10
Mastering Modeling	11
Up The Track	12
Narrow Minded	13
Petticoat Junction	14
Secretary/Treasurer's Report	14
From The Past	15
Directors' Reports	15

The Marker Lamp

The Official Publication of
The Lone Star Region of The
National Model
Railroad Association

Volume 54, Number 2

EDITOR
CHUCK LIND
507 Kyle Avenue
College Station, Texas 77840
(979) 696-8862
E-mail: cr-lind@tamu.edu

ADVERTISING &
MAILING LIST
Elbert Smith
518 Granada Drive
Garland, Texas 75043-5118
(972) 681-0117
E-mail: barbel_518@sbcglobal.net

Visit the LSR's web page at:
www.lonestarregion.com

The editorial policy of **The Marker Lamp**, the official publication of **The Lone Star Region**, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility.

The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of **The Lone Star Region** of **The National Model Railroad Association**.

Articles appearing in **The Marker Lamp** are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of **The Lone Star Region** or **The National Model Railroad Association**.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

Correspondence relating to Pike Ads, Dealer Ads, Address Changes and requests for extra copies should be addressed to **Elbert Smith, 518 Granada Drive, Garland, Texas 75043-5118. (972) 681-0117**

Submission Deadlines &
Advertising Closing Dates

Winter Issue.....January 15
Spring Issue .....April 15
Summer Issue.....July 15
Fall Issue.....October 15

Mailing Date:
Approx. 30 Days After Deadline.
Materials received after the deadline will be held for the next issue unless the author requests otherwise.

Lone Star Region Call Board

LSR Officers

PRESIDENT
GERALD H. SCHOENBERG, MMR
1039 Clinton Street
Carrollton, Texas 75007-4828
(972) 242-9053
E-mail: arrjerry@aol.com

BOARD ADVISOR
JAMES E. PACKER, MMR
3405 San Bar Lane
Colleyville, Texas 76034-8661
(817) 514-7291
E-mail: jim.packer@sbcglobal.net

VICE-PRESIDENT
BILL MCPHERSON
4402 Vista Creek Drive
Rowlett, Texas 75088-1818
(972) 463-9721
E-mail: tpbill@attglobal.net

SECRETARY-TREASURER
Elbert Smith
518 Granada Drive
Garland, Texas 75043-5118
(972) 681-0117
E-mail: barbel_518@sbcglobal.net

SECRETARY-EMERITUS
EUNICE LINDA
3028 Cumberland
Waco, Texas 76707-1219
(254) 754-5535
E-mail: jlinda@hot.rr.com

LSR Directors-At-Large

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE
ROBERT (BOB) BRAY
1820 Spruce Lane
Benbrook, Texas 76126-3910
(817) 249-4965
E-mail: brayrlja@sbcglobal.net

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE
TRACY MITCHELL, MMR
12018 Troulon
Houston, Texas 77072-4032
(281) 495-1669
E-mail: traymit@comcast.net

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE
Wm. B. (BILL) DRYDEN, JR.
1335 Donovan Street
Gonzales, Texas 78629
(469) 964-8571
E-mail: bdr149@airmail.net

LSR Division Directors

COWCATCHER DIVISION (1)
CHRIS ATKINS
1633 Parkside Trail
Lewisville, Texas 75077
(214) 222-1285
E-mail: chris@railroadermodelers.com

CEN-TEX DIVISION (4)
ROBERT B. (BOB) ALSTON, JR.
3405 Southwinds
Lorena, Texas 76655
(254) 857-3906
E-mail: drtrainrba@hughes.net

DIVISION (7)
DON P. KIMMELL
9132 Mansfield Road
Shreveport, Louisiana 71118
(318) 798-7718
E-mail: prrdpkir@msn.com

BAYOU DIVISION (2)
JACK GREEN
1265 Cornerstone Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810
(225) 767-4692
E-mail: jwg3rd@aol.com

DIVISION (5)
DAVE LAMBERTS
3717 95th Street
Lubbock, Texas 79423-3811
(806) 792-7244
E-mail: DavidWL1944@aol.com

TEXAS GULF DIVISION (8)
RAY BYER
2607 Thomas Ave.
Pasedena, Texas 77506-2940
(281) 482-4987
E-mail: raybyer@yahoo.com

NORTH EAST TEXAS DIVISION (3)
DUANE RICHARDSON
1122 Holland Drive
Garland, Texas 75040
(972) 495-6375
E-mail:
duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com

DIVISION (6)
FRED BOCK, MMR
5923 Windhaven
San Antonio, Texas 78239-2132
(210) 653-5947
E-mail: Fbocklsrdiv6@aol.com

LSR Chairs

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
AL BOOS, MMR
130 Surrey Lane
Universal City, Texas 78148-3938
(210) 658-4548
E-mail: AandVBoos3@aol.com

CONVENTION
BILL MCPHERSON
4402 Vista Creek Drive
Rowlett, Texas 75088-1818
(972) 463-9721
E-mail: tpbill@attglobal.net

EVENTS
Wm. B. (BILL) DRYDEN, JR.
1335 Donovan Street
Gonzales, Texas 78629
(469) 964-8571
E-mail: bdr149airmail.net

MEMBERSHIP
DAVID DAVIS
P.O. Box 110852
Carrollton, Texas 75011-0852
(972) 245-5987
E-mail: ddandjd@gte.net

NON-RAIL
VIRGINIA FREITAG
1835 Alta Vista
Houston, Texas 77023-2503
(713) 926-2993
E-mail: v-gfreitag@comcast.net

PUBLICATIONS/EDITOR
CHUCK LIND, MMR
507 Kyle Avenue
College Station, Texas 77840
(979) 696-8862
E-mail: cr-lind@tamu.edu

HISTORIAN
JIM LONG, MMR
2404 Creek Ridge
Pearland, Texas 77581-5728
(281) 482-4987
E-mail: (none)

WEB SITE
DUANE RICHARDSON
1122 Holland Drive
Garland, Texas 75040
(972) 495-6375
E-mail:
duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com

EDUCATIONAL CHAIR
ROBERT "Rocky"
JACKSON
301 Teakwood Lane
Cedar Hill, Texas 75104-2942
(972) 291-5453
E-mail: carrock@aol.com

CONTEST
CHUCK LIND, MMR
507 Kyle Avenue
College Station, Texas 77840
(979) 696-8862
E-mail: cr-lind@tamu.edu

DISPATCHER N/HO-SCALE CARS
EUNICE LINDA
3028 Cumberland
Waco, Texas 76707-1219
(254) 754-5535
E-mail: jlinda@hot.rr.com

NOMINATIONS
GARY MCMILLS
649 Broadmoor Ave.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70815-4016
(225) 930-0387
E-mail: santafe@tlxnet.net

PHOTOGRAPHY CHAIR
DAVE LAMBERTS
3717 95th Street
Lubbock, Texas 79423-3811
(806) 792-7244
E-mail: dwl1944@cs.com

YOUTH
TOM BROWNING
5923 Overdowns Circle
Dallas, Texas 75230-4039
(214) 692-9784
E-mail: thomascb2004@sbcglobal.net

President's Message

by Jerry Schoenberg, MMR

Again, you have all given me the opportunity to talk about a topic in our hobby that is dear to me. Did you ever hear the saying, **"Turnabout is Fair Play"**? Although I am not sure of its origin, I think it applies well to our hobby. It is another way of saying "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". Maybe, we can equate this better to "Share your talents with others, and they will share theirs with you". Most simply, my message is that when you put your efforts into the hobby, you will be repaid the most in the enjoyment you receive from it.

We all think of our railroad magazines, hobby shops and purchased items to be important. Really, model railroading is only financially supported by these physical things. Model railroading would die without the volunteer efforts of us all. Many have asked "What would my participation do for me"? The answer is simple: It will get you involved. Did you ever notice that the Region members that enjoy this hobby the most are the ones that do the most to promote it?

A good place to contribute is at clubs and home layouts. If you want to be a member or enjoy the layouts of others, **"Turnabout is Fair Play".** Remember there is a large commitment of time and funds from others that you would like to enjoy. If you are willing to be a helper with scenery, structures, wiring, etc., you will be welcome by many of these facilities. You can help with operating sessions or be a helper during visitor programs. If you can run a cordless drill, you can be a help to the owner. These efforts will allow you to enjoy the results of your friends and the owners while getting a large dose of expertise from them. Plus, you will receive a lot of special fun. Non-participation results in much less satisfaction and enjoyment.

Other events where you can give and receive in our hobby are conventions, train shows, Division Meetings and club meetings. When you have experienced some success in an area, share it with others, give a clinic, "show off" your work. Remember, **"Turnabout is Fair Play".** I am particularly impressed with the NMRA Achievement Program as a way to "give". There is no better feeling in model railroading than to receive a certificate of achievement in one of the categories. This is a great motivator, and it feels good. However, to get the next certificate, you may need the guidance and training from others. Also, be willing to be a judge for the AP program in your area of knowledge. Remember to always encourage and point out all the well done efforts. What a way to share- **"Turnabout is Fair Play".**

I have learned that the ultimate in helping others is in the area of Live Steam model railroading. If you are interested in this part of the hobby, there is no end to what you can contribute. Those that own the tracks, you might like to enjoy, simply cannot provide them without help. They furnish large parcels of land, storage, loading/unloading facilities, shops and experience. They need help with track, ballast, tie replacement, shrubbery, and weeding, etc. **"Turnabout is Fair Play".**

In summary, we are all fortunate that we can always ask for the expertise of others when we need it. Other hobbies tend to keep things closer to the vest. Even our contest competitors will share their secrets that could beat them in a later event. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the IRON HORSE 8 in Houston. Can you believe this is the 57th LSR Convention? Put June 18-22 on your calendar. Check the Lone Star Region website for details.

View from the Spar Pole

By Chuck Lind, MMR

With the Winter Snow Train Special out of Durango over, I have had my temporary fix of coal smoke that will hold me until later this year.. Duane has an article in this issue telling about the trip so I won't take all of the thunder from his article, but I do have a couple of comments.

I don't know where they came up with the statement "it is a dry cold, so it doesn't feel cold." Standing outside in Chama taking pictures in 4 degrees, *it is cold!* They have had record snowfall in the area. They were loading dump trucks with snow and hauling it out of town because they had no place else to put it. The fellows traveling with me think they found a new way to pick up some cash, shoveling roofs. Doesn't look like my idea of a way to earn some extra cash even though it pays $350.00 to have your roof shoveled. You are standing on a slippery roof in 5 degree temperature trying to shovel off 3 feet of snow without sliding off the roof yourself. I like Texas in the winter, cold one day, warm the next and we don't have to pay to have our roof shoveled, so that's more money to play trains with.

As I write this I just finished spending the weekend at my second favorite place, the sawmill at Long Leaf. This past weekend was their big fundraiser, Heritage Days. Last year they managed to attract just over 900 people for the one day event. This year they worked even harder and promoted the event in every way they could think of hoping to be able to attract about 1,200 people. Well they did that, and more. When the day was over, the gate attendance was just over 1,800 people, an all time record.

I worked the rail speeder giving people rides on the old logging right-of-way, pulling a trailer load of people up and down the grade all day. Watching the excitement on the faces of the children as we rode the tracks through the woods was all the payment needed. Kids still like railroads! For those of us that still have those childhood feelings, we need to work and keep the future generations interested in this way of life that is slipping away.

Laurie came along for the weekend to lend her help where she could. She ended up working in the commissary selling snacks and other items helping, whereever she was needed.

It was a long, but satisifying day and the museum took in some very needed funds to help them with their many projects. For Laurie and myself, we headed out to eat supper and some much needed rest.

2008 LSR Convention

The IRON HORSE 8 LSR convention is rapidly approaching – only one more month before the fun begins! Mark it on your calendar. You still have a few days to register at the early bird rate of just $88; we've extended it to May 18 (we'll allow the 19th, because the 18th is on a Sunday) so that you can still sign up after reading this issue. But on the 20th the cost goes up! And don't forget the hotel reservations - June 8 is the cutoff date for the special convention rate of $75.

We've got a lot of updates in this article, but be sure to keep checking the convention website, http://www.lonestarregion.com/convention.shtml, for all the latest information on any and all aspects of the convention. It not only has all the information you're reading in this Marker Lamp, but we'll be updating it on a regular basis with more details on all the great activities we have in store for you this year. For a quick check look in the left column on the main convention website page for "Last Site Update". The most recent changes will be listed there for easy access.

HOTEL INFORMATION

The convention will be held at the **Holiday Inn Houston Southwest**, 11160 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77031-3698. It's near the intersection of Hwy 59 South and Beltway 8 (Sam Houston Tollway).

The hotel's direct phone number is 281-530-1400, or you can call 1-800-230-8730. **We've obtained a great rate this year, just $75.00 per night**. Be sure to mention the code: "**LSR**". The cutoff date for the LSR rate is June 8, 2008.

REGISTRATION

Your registration cost this year will include the trip to Zube Park on Thursday evening for Barbeque and Train Rides. See below for more details on this fun evening. The basic registration fee will be $88 (in keeping with the theme of "8"of course!). Don't wait too long though, because on May 18 it goes up to $98, and you don't want to end up behind the "8" ball!

You'll find a complete registration form in this issue of the Marker Lamp. In addition to the basic convention registration for you and your family members, you'll find an assortment of available extra fare activities, as well as convention shirts and commemorative decals. You can also reserve your spot(s) in the operating sessions and certain clinics. Be sure to fill out the section on the back of the form (or on Page 2 if printed from the website).

GUEST SPEAKER – BRIAN MARSH

We're pleased to announce that Brian Marsh, CEO of Overland Models, will be our featured speaker at the Banquet Saturday night. Some of you heard his excellent presentation at the George Bush Library not so long ago; we're all looking forward to having Brian in Houston this year.

CLINICS

You can look forward to a wide variety of clinics on subjects such as Scenery, Electronics, Operation, Scratchbuilding, Prototype railroading, Railfanning, and maybe a few surprises! The exact schedule will be posted on the LSR website as soon as it's complete. Meanwhile, here's a list of the clinics in alphabetical order.

2008 LSR CLINIC LIST

Chris Atkins – Working with *RailOp* This clinic will explain the basics of *RailOp* and how to apply it to your railroad.

Steve Barkley –Basic DCC This clinic will show you how to get started in DCC.

Steve Barkley – Signals This clinic describes the *WinLoc* system for controlling signals.

Mike Barrett – Modeling Santa Fe and Other 6 Leg Trestles Prototype AT&SF design documentation and photographs will be presented. Techniques for modeling the trestles and using the Black Bear construction jig and Trestle Buddy will be discussed. Modeling a specific trestle near Lubbock will be described. Using the same jig to model Pennsy and Chicago & Northwestern trestles will also be presented.

Mike Barrett - Building A Four or Five Leg Trestle with Four Bents (requires advance registration & fee) This will be a 2 ½ hr. hands-on clinic. Attendees will be provided with a complete kit of pre-cut, pre-stained wood provided by Mt. Albert Scale Lumber, additional figures and stringer material. He will provide tools attendees will share. The 4 and 5 leg trestles can be completed in class. More information is available on his website: http://www.blackbearcc.com/LSRTrestleClinic.htm The fee is $33, regardless of which jig is chosen. HO scale only. The jig will be yours to keep. (If you have your own jig, the fee will be $9.) Please **sign up in advance** so Mike will know how many kits to bring. You'll find this clinic listed among the Extra Fare items on the registration form. Or you can contact Robert Ashcraft, Registrar, crash8473@comcast.net

The IRON HORSE 8
Lone Star Region Convention
June 18 - 22, 2008
Registration Page 1

Name of PRIME REGISTRANT: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _ _ _ _ _ - _ _ _ _

NMRA Membership No.: _____ **NMRA Exp. Date:** ____/____/_____

Home REGION: _____ **REGION Exp. Date:** ____/____/_____

Email Address: _____

PRIME REGISTRANT to fill out only ONE of A, B, or C. **NOTE: All adult registration fees increase by $10 after May 8.**

A. Current NMRA and Region Members:
$88 PRIME REGISTRANT (name at top) name for badge: _____

B. Non-Member (includes NMRA full membership and Lone Star Region membership for one year for Prime Registrant):
$136 PRIME REGISTRANT (name at top) name for badge: _____

C. Non-Member (includes NMRA "Rail Pass" 6-month trial membership and Lone Star Region membership for Prime Registrant):
$97.95 PRIME REGISTRANT (name at top) name for badge: _____

For family members with the same address as PRIME REGISTRANT (no membership requirements):

$88 Adult family member, name for badge: _____

$88 Adult family member, name for badge: _____

$60 Minor child 11 and under (under 5 free), name for badge: _____

$60 Minor child 11 and under (under 5 free), name for badge: _____

$25 Registration surcharge (Prime registrant only)
Applies to those who do not stay at their own home nor at the Convention hotel. Fact: The cost of convention facilities is primarily subsidized by convention hotel guests. Everyone attending will share in these benefits, so we're asking that everyone pay their fair share - hotel guest or not.

Extra Fare Items: Please see Registration Form Page 2

REGISTRATION (Includes BBQ & Trains at Zube Park)

PRIME REGISTRANT (see above for applicable fee)			$ _____
After May 8 add $10		$10	$ _____
Registration Surcharge (if applicable)		$25	$ _____
Adult Family Member	Qty _____	@ $88 ea	$ _____
After May 8 add $10 each	Qty _____	@ $10 ea	$ _____
Minor Child	Qty _____	@ $60 ea	$ _____

EXTRA FARE ITEMS :
Includes Tours, Operating Session Deposits, Extra Meal Tickets, Shirts, Decals, Clinics
Please enter your selections on Registration Form Page 2

TOTAL OF EXTRA FARE ITEMS:
(As Listed on Registration Form Page 2) _____ $ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $ _____

Please make checks payable to: Texas Gulf Division

Mail to: Robert Ashcraft, Registrar, LSR 2008 Convention, 2008 Westminister, Pearland, TX 77581

Convention hotel: Holiday Inn Houston Southwest, 11160 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77031-3698
Ph. 1-800-230-8730, Local Ph. 281-530-1400, ask for LSR rates - $75 / night (cut-off date: June 8, 2008)

The IRON HORSE 8
Lone Star Region Convention

Registration Page 2

EXTRA FARE ITEMS: **(For additional details please see descriptions in Marker Lamp)**

$20 Prototype Tour #1 - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. UTLX Tank Car Mfgr., RESCAR Car Repair Shop

$20 Prototype Tour #2 - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. UP Training Center & Loco Simulator, Metro Car Shops

$6 Non-Rail Luncheon / Tour - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Breakfast, Luncheon and Shopping at Old Town Spring

$25 Super Layout Tour - Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Bus tour to outstanding layouts in Houston (lunch & snacks incl.)

$34 Convention Golf Shirt - AVAILABLE FOR ADVANCE ORDER ONLY!

Tan golf shirt with pocket, IRON HORSE 8 Convention logo embroidered on upper right.

$4 Commemorative Decals Ben Pearlman's "Downe & Owlte RR"

$33 Mike Barrett Trestle Clinic - Includes Jig Build a trestle

$9 Mike Barrett Trestle Clinic - Jig NOT Included Build a trestle

$25 Progressive Clinic - All Five Sessions Build your own Diorama

$10 Progressive Clinic - Per Session Build your own Diorama

EXTRA FARE ITEMS

Prototype Tour #1	Qty _____	@ $20 ea	$ _____
Prototype Tour #2	Qty _____	@ $20 ea	$ _____
Non-Rail Luncheon / Tour	Qty _____	@ $6 ea	$ _____
Super Layout Tour	Qty _____	@ $25 ea	$ _____
Operating Session Deposit - Wednesday	Qty _____	@ $10 ea	$ _____
Operating Session Deposit - Friday	Qty _____	@ $10 ea	$ _____
Extra Banquet Tickets	Qty _____	@ $37 ea	$ _____
Extra Breakfast Tickets	Qty _____	@ $15 ea	$ _____
Convention Shirts	Qty _____	@ $34 ea	$ _____
Commemorative Decals	HO ___ N___	@ $4 ea	$ _____
Mike Barrett clinic (includes jig)	Qty _____	@ $33 ea	$ _____
Mike Barrett clinic (jig NOT included)	Qty _____	@ $9 ea	$ _____
Progressive clinic series (all five sessions)	Qty _____	@ $25 ea	$ _____
Progressive clinic series (per session) Session No.: 1___ 2___ 3___ 4___ 5___	Qty _____	@ $10 ea	$ _____

TOTAL OF EXTRA FARE ITEMS:
(Enter on Registration Form - Page 1) _____ $ _____

Convention Shirts ($34)

(Advance Order Only)

Shirt sizes	Quantity Men's	Quantity Women's
S	_____	_____
M	_____	_____
L	_____	_____
XL	_____	_____
XXL	_____	_____
XXXL	_____	_____
XXXXL	_____	_____

OPERATING SESSIONS

$10 Operating Session deposit (per session), refundable at the operating session

Several of Houston's many fine layouts will host operating sessions on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

YOU MUST INCLUDE A TEN DOLLAR ($10) DEPOSIT FOR EACH OPERATING SESSION YOU PLAN TO ATTEND. Your deposit will be refunded at the operating session. No-shows will forfeit their deposits.

PLEASE FILL IN YOUR NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW AND INDICATE WHICH EVENING(S) YOU WISH TO OPERATE. When the list of available layouts is finalized it will be posted on the convention website and sent to those who have reserved spots, so that you can indicate your preferences. A drawing will be held June 8, and you will receive your highest choice that is still available. Requests received after June 8 will receive their highest choice that is still available.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _ _ _ _ _ - _ _ _ _

Daytime Phone No.: _____ **Evening Phone No.:** _____

Choice of evenings: Wednesday _____ **Friday** _____ **Both** _____

Email (important) _____

Mail to: Robert Ashcraft, Registrar, LSR 2008 Convention, 2008 Westminister, Pearland, TX 77581

Barry Bogs – RTV Mold-Making and Casting in Plastic Resin Barry will explain his techniques of making successful RTV molds and then using them to make Plastic Resin castings. He will give pointers on how to cast so that there are a minimum amount of bubbles in the finished product.

Brian Block MMR – Stone Walls – Start to Finish (requires advance registration, but no fee) (approx 2 hrs.) This is a step by step Hands-On clinic in which Brian demonstrates his technique for creating stone walls. He has used this technique on several of his buildings which have been featured in the *Narrow Gauge Gazette*. Attendees will form, pour, carve and use acrylic paints to color and detail their own stone wall. Attendees are asked to bring a Hobby Knife with a #11 Blade to the clinic. This clinic is limited to 25 participants. Additional attendees are welcome to watch.

Fred Bock & Tom Crosthwait – Operations 101 A clinic for those wanting to learn how to simulate day to day operations on a model railroad. The basic movements, facing point set-outs and pick-ups, trailing point set-outs and pick-ups, run-around moves, turn and train and when to look for a passing siding will be explained. They will also teach the difference between a siding and a spur. Other necessities will also be covered. A model layout will be used for demonstrations.

Bill Dryden – Derail-free Rolling Stock Bill will present model railroading basics – tools and getting rolling stock in good operating condition.

Leslie Eaton MMR – Nano Animation for Under $10 Animation for your layout the easy way. Leslie shows off an incredible variety of electronic projects that can be created cheaply from commonly available or obtainable products.

Chuck Ellis MMR – Scenery –Start to Finish This clinic includes plaster castings, coloring and ground cover.

Kennedy Gauger – Maintaining Rolling Stock During this clinic, Kennedy will present various tips and recommendations for improving the performance of rolling stock on your layout. He will show how to use the NMRA Standards Gauge and NMRA standards and recommended practices to improve rail car performance. The briefing will demonstrate how to determine and adjust proper rail car weights (RP-20.1), install reliable couplers, and adjust coupler heights to avoid unplanned uncoupling. He will also demonstrate how to reduce the friction of your rail car trucks to improve the capacity of your locomotives to pull cars and to facilitate realistic car movement during operating sessions. He will end with a demonstration on cleaning dirty wheels.

Jim Hinds – Wire Sizes for Model Railroads Jim will explain everything you need to know about wiring your railroad, including wire busses, feeders and jumpers.

Jim Hinds – Understanding and Using LEDs Jim explains what an LED is, how it works, why use LEDs, things to remember about LEDs, white LEDs, mounting LEDs, LEDs for car-lighting and much more.

Jim Hinds – Surface-Mount LEDs for Locomotives

Greg Johnson – Building & Operating an Industrial Strength Railroad The clinic will discuss prototype influences, design principles, structures, modeled industries and operations of an industrial-themed HO railroad.

Lloyd Keyser – Compressed Reproduction of Wausau WI This clinic will cover how to compress a prototype town to fit your layout taking into account the track plan, facilities, industries, operations and without loosing its character.

Chuck Lind – Building Carter Brothers Cars Carter Brothers cars were used on several western railroads around California. The West Side Lumber Co. used them as the basis for many of their cars from log cars to box cars. Chuck will be reviewing the history of the Carter Brothers and how they managed to succeed when others failed. He will also take you through the steps on how he builds the Carter style cars for his logging railroad. The clinic will be a power point presentation with visual aids on the tools, jigs and techniques he uses.

John Lowrance – Building Backdrop Buildings for Your Layout John will show how to use modular sections to build complete backdrop buildings.

Bob Mitchell – Scenery and Rocks Without The Use of Molds, Plaster or Paint (requires advance registration, but no fee) (approx 2 hrs) This is a Hands-On clinic. Any shape of rock can be built with this method including boulders, excavation cuts, spires, arches, schist, realistic stream beds and everyday rock faces. The same method of coloring these rocks also adds life and depth to flat scenery and ballasted track. All tools and materials will be provided. This clinic is limited to 25 participants. Additional attendees are welcome to watch.

Bob Mitchell – Hand-Laying Track Made Easy Always thought hand-laying track was too much work?...well think again. This method uses real wooden ties and is done without the use of spikes, track templates, or gauges. This is also a sure fire way to build wooden trestles in place.

Craig Ordner – Temple Railroad & Heritage Museum Craig is the Curator/Archivist at the museum and will fill us in on everything at the museum.

Tom Palmer – MKT Passenger Operations – Post War – Early 1950s This clinic will describe MKT operations, equipment, special moves and military moves. It will provide information for adding variety to anyone passenger operation.

Al Partlow – T&NO Postwar Passenger Operations In 1950 the Texas & New Orleans Railroad Company was still operating 24 passenger trains in and out of the Houston Grand Central Station. Steam motive power was still protecting many passenger train assignments, but diesels were fast replacing steam on some of the trains. The Sunset Limited, The Argonaut, The Sunbeam, The Alamo and The Acadian are just some of the trains covered in this one hour PowerPoint presentation. Included are over one hundred photos of these trains as they operated over T&NO lines throughout Texas and Louisiana in the Post WWII era.

Duane Richardson – Weathering Duane will the cover various techniques necessary for weathering, be it on rolling stock, structures, or other and using various mediums such as inks, chalks, pastels, dirt or other.

PROTOTYPE TOURS

Tour No. 1 – Thursday

Union Tank Sheldon (tank car manufacturing)

The UTLX manufacturing plant in Sheldon TX has 4 production lines capable of producing 40-50 tank cars per week. They typically produce general purpose cars and small 25,000 gal pressure cars. Starting in May they expect to start a run of

33,500 gal pressure cars. We will get to see one of the 2 cold steel head presses used by UTLX capable of pressing steel plate almost 1 inch thick into a head for a tank car. A safety briefing will begin the tour. Hardhats, safety glasses will be provided. Long pants and hard shoes are required. Steel toe shoes are recommended – if you have them, bring them.

Rescar Channelview (railcar repair)

The RESCAR repair center in Channelview is focused primarily on the repair of rail tank cars, but, from time to time, hopper cars are brought in for repair as well. Inside the facility they have the capability to store about 400 cars at once. There are areas for repair - both light and heavy, interior linings, exterior paint as well as an area set aside for the FRA mandated tank car qualification (similar to the annual safety inspection required on your auto). They also have a valve shop with in-the-ground testing pods. Soon to be complete is a new repair building and a state-of-the-art tank car cleaning rack. Hardhats and safety glasses will be provided at the safety briefing. Long pants and hard closed toe shoes are required. Steel toe shoes are recommended.

Tour No. 1 - Friday

Port of Houston Boat Tour

Come aboard the M/V *Sam Houston* for a spectacular 90 minute waterborne tour of one of the busiest ports in the world. You'll be able to see many industries from a side that's rarely visible to the average person. Cargo vessels of all types utilize the port; and you'll also be able to view operations at the Turning Basin Terminal. It's a unique opportunity for a fascinating tour that you won't see anywhere else!

Please note: Due to security requirements **no cameras, backpacks or large purses are allowed on board the vessel**. A photo ID will be required. Also, **we are required to submit a list of passengers 72 hours in advance, so you must sign-up for this tour by Monday evening, June 16**, so that we can call in the list on Tuesday morning.

Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) Rail Operations Center, Houston

Go behind the scenes at METRO's Rail Operations Center (ROC) on this leg of the tour. See how METRO maintains it light rail cars and trains its operators. The ROC is one of the most modern light rail maintenance and training facilities in the country, with a state-of-the-art simulator. Don't miss this one!

Due to this tour's length, we will be stopping for lunch (Dutch treat) at Golden Corral, where you can have your choice of a wide variety of dishes - even steak! Also note that the contest entry deadline has been set for 4:30 p.m. on Friday so people on this tour will have time to submit their entries.

LAYOUT TOURS (Drive-yourself)

As always, one of the top attractions in the Houston area is our wide selection of outstanding home railroads. We'll have two days of drive yourself tours to layouts from N scale to G, narrow gauge, standard gauge, large, small, desert, mountain, outdoor… well, you name it – you'll see it! Check the website to see which days layouts will be open.

SUPER LAYOUT TOUR

A charter bus tour to some of the finest layouts in the Houston area. Among the eight layouts on the tour will be Barry Bogs' Gn3 "Colorado & Western," Craig Brantley's O/On3 "D&RGW Spring Division," Craig Raymond's Rio Grande Southern style Sn3 layout, the HO scale "Great Great Northern" of Don Bozman, Gil Freitag's "Stony Creek & Western," plus others yet to be determined. Check the following pages for photos of some of the layouts.

Our charter bus will leave the hotel at 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning and return between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. that evening – in time for the Social Hour and Banquet. We'll have free soft drinks and doughnuts on the bus, and a box lunch is included. On the longer portions of the trip we'll be showing railroad and / or modeling clinic videos on the closed circuit TV system.

OPERATING SESSIONS

One of the highlights of the convention will be the Operating Sessions, which will take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings. The sessions will begin at 7:00pm each night, and you should make arrangements for your own transportation.

To register for operating sessions, be sure to fill out the section at the bottom of Page 2 of the registration form and indicate your choice of Wednesday, Friday or both. Below is a list of the available layouts. Be aware that, depending on demand, some layouts may be changed or cancelled. Please send your preferences – first, second and third choices - to Robert Ashcraft, the convention registrar ASAP. A drawing will be held on May 30 and you'll receive your highest choice that's still available. Requests received after June 8 will get their highest choice from whatever is left.

Gil Freitag - Stony Creek & Western RR
Peter Bryan - West Virginia Western RR
Don Bozman - The Great Great Northern RR
Robert Ashcraft - Raton & Western RR
Bob Dannenbrink - CNW, SOO
Mike Spoor – Chicago & Aurora Div. – CB&Q

A refundable $10 deposit is required per session to encourage you to attend. The layout owner will refund your deposit during the operating session. No-shows will forfeit their deposit. No cancellations will be honored within 5 days of operation.

BARBEQUE & TRAINS AT ZUBE PARK

Don't miss the trip to Zube Park on Thursday June 19th; all LSR convention attendees are invited to the "HOUSTON AREA LIVE STEAMERS" railroad for a catered barbeque cookout. At 5 o'clock the trains will be ready to ride on our fabulous 9000 foot track. In addition, we'll be giving tours on our 2500 foot expansion for Phase 4. Dinner is served from 6:00 pm and until 7:30, but the trains will continue to run until 9pm.

All this fun & food is included in your registration fee. You'll get a great catered meal and all the train riding you, your spouse and your kids can handle, plus tours of the car and engine barns and other facilities.

HALS has both live steam and diesel motive power as well as numerous pieces of rolling stock and riding cars, plus a 250' long elevated Gauge One Live Steam Railroad the likes of which you've never seen before.

Come for the food and the fun! It's better than dinner and a movie! Bring lawn chairs or blankets if you have them available.

NON-RAIL ACTIVITIES

On Wednesday evening come to the social get-together for preview of upcoming activities, including samples of all the clinics that will be presented throughout the convention. Sign-

up sheets will be available so that you can pick and choose any or all the events you wish to attend.

Welcome to
OLD TOWN SPRING
Historic 1900's Railroad Town
Come and enjoy the history, shopping and charm of Old Town Spring!

Friday will be a shopping/luncheon trip, but the first stop will be at Byron and Carolyn Spampinato's home; you're all invited for a continental breakfast – quiche, fruit, muffins, drinks, etc! Then it's on to **Old Town Spring** with its vast array of shops – antiques, collectibles, souvenirs, snack and specialty food shops, all topped off with a luncheon (Dutch treat) at Puffabelly's, a unique restaurant in housed an old train station.

And anytime you find yourself needing a place to just go relax and unwind, we've got a beautiful parlor awaiting you up on the sixth floor, where you can "sit deep and rest easy!"

A **Christian Bible Study** will be held after breakfast on Sunday morning for anyone wishing to attend.

CONTESTS

Chuck Lind has a new and improved contest for 2008; you'll definitely want to participate in this one. Some of the categories and rules have changed slightly, and some really unique and fun special contests have been added.

If you're feeling inventive, **give the "PEANUT BUTTER LID" contest a try!** Build anything you want, for any category you want. Let your imagination run wild! The catch is, it has to fit on the lid of a 28 oz. peanut butter jar – 3 1/2 inch diameter, to be exact. And NO PART of the model, at the bottom, the top or anywhere in between, can stick out past that limit. A specially designed high-precision gauge will be used to enforce that requirement. All right, we're just gonna drop a tube down over the model and if it hits anything... disqualified! These models will all be eligible for whatever category they fit - Display, Scenery, Structures or whatever. But there'll also be a special judging for all the "PEANUT BUTTER LID" entries. First prize is... who knows, maybe a PBJ sandwich?!

Arts & Crafts entrants, don't forget to be working on your contest entries...the clock is ticking! There's a category for whatever you wish to make – Railroadiana, General, **and** this year's **Theme – the Houston Rodeo**!

By the way, the website also has downloadable Contest Entry Forms for your convenience.

DISPLAY ROOM

If you're in the mood to just wander around and see what's happening, be sure to check out all the goings-on in the Display Room. Try your hand at the Switching Contest, peruse Jim Long's LSR Historical Display, admire the operating layouts, and enjoy all the other things that haven't even been thought of yet!

The Display Room is also where you'll find the Progressive Clinic. Come by and watch or sign up and join in. Details are just below.

PROGRESSIVE CLINIC – HANDS-ON!

You'll certainly want to peek over the shoulders of the folks working on their dioramas. Tracy Mitchell, MMR and his team of outstanding modelers will be leading a group through of all the skills and techniques needed to create a top-quality diorama right before your eyes! Sign up and join the fun in this hands-on series of clinics! Better hurry though; it's limited to the first sixteen people.

How to build a HO Diorama 1301

The clinic will be a total of 4 sessions and one optional session. The fare will be $25 for all five sessions or $10 for each individual session. It will be limited to 16 participants. On-lookers will be allowed and encouraged.

When you sign up for all 5 sessions, here's what you'll receive: one 12 x18 inch piece of blue foam one inch thick for the base, track and roadbed, ground cover materials including dirt, sand, ground foam, weeds, etc., tree making supplies including trunks and foliage material, plastic structures, detail parts including signs, decals, etc., two freight cars and all the necessary supplies (glues, solvents, paint, and tools) needed to complete the diorama.

The concept of the clinic is: You'll start with a 12 x18 inch piece of 1 inch blue foam base, and when done you'll have a complete display. You will learn how to plan and lay out a display, some track laying, tree making, scenery techniques including blending scenery, and how to upgrade a structure. You will also learn how to bring it all together to create your own masterpiece. The style of the diorama is up to each individual; it can be industrial, rural, rolling hills, or an urban setting. You make it what you want it to be. Some tools will be supplied, but attendees are advised to bring their own X-Acto knives and any other favorite modeling tools.

MMR Tracy Mitchell and his expert staff will be conducting all the sessions. Guest clinicians will also be around to help out as they are needed. This will be a chance to learn from the best modelers that the LSR has to offer.

Session #1 – Wednesday night 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm. This session is devoted to planning and beginning construction of your diorama and learning to make trees. You will learn how to place your buildings, roads, trackwork, details, and some scenery for the most dramatic effect. You will also learn basic track work, grade crossings, culverts, shaping scenery, and tree making.

Session #2 – Thursday Morning 8:00 am – 12:00 noon. This session will be primarily about scenery; applying ground cover and track ballast, creating cuts and fills, making dirt roads, and anything else pertaining to scenery will all be taught during this session.

Session #3 – Friday Morning 8:00 am -12:00 noon. This one's all about upgrading and detailing structures. You'll pick out a pre-built building from the group of styrene structures supplied. You will then be shown how to enhance the structure you picked out. Topics include window dressings, signs, roof upgrades, brick mortar, distressing wood siding, and adding details to make a structure look more realistic. This will NOT be a "how to build a model kit" clinic, but rather how to enhance an existing building.

Session #4 – Friday Night 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm. In this final session you will learn how to blend it all together. Details will be added to your scene making it more lifelike. The topics will include adding clutter, vehicles, figures, and other details to bring your diorama to life. When finished you will get to take the diorama home with you to display on a shelf, or even incorporate it into your layout or module.

Session #5 (Optional but still included in $25 fare) – Saturday morning 8:00 am -12:00 noon. Decaling and weathering freight cars. In this optional setting you will be given a painted but

unlettered freight car and will learn how to apply decals. Emphasis will be on showing how to hide decal film. As an added bonus you'll be given a lettered, but un-weathered, freight car and will be taught how to weather it appropriately without the use of an airbrush. In the end you'll walk away with two freight cars, one lettered and one weathered.

SILENT AUCTION & RULES

Last but certainly not least, at the end of the hall you'll find the Silent Auction and treasures galore! Bidding will close at some unknown time between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Friday. Detailed rules are on the website and will be posted in the room.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Here's the tentative schedule of convention activities (subject to change). You'll find a detailed up-to-date schedule on the website.

Wednesday evening: Set-up, Registration, Clinics, Operating Sessions, Non-Rail preview/social.

Thursday: Registration, Contest entry, Silent auction entry, Clinics (rail and non-rail), Layout tours, Prototype tour #1.

Thursday evening: BBQ Picnic & Trains at Zube (included in registration!).

Friday: Registration, Contest entry, Silent auction entry & bidding, Clinics (rail), Prototype tour #2, Non-rail luncheon & Old Town Spring tour.

Friday evening: Registration, Silent auction ends, Contest judging, Clinics (rail & non-rail), Operating sessions.

Saturday: Super Layout Tour, Drive-yourself layout tours, Clinics (rail & non-rail), Contest viewing, Silent auction settle-up/pickup.

Saturday evening: Social Hour, Banquet, Games, Contest viewing & pickup.

Sunday morning: Breakfast / LSR Annual Meeting, Bible Study, LSR Board Meeting.

See you in June!

Loren Neufeld, MMR
Convention Chairman - **the IRON HORSE** 8

Special Contest for Houston

Your slightly demented (depending on who you ask) Contest Chairman has come up with something to follow last year's "Outhouse" contest.

This year's contest will be to build whatever you want. The catch is, it must fit on a peanut butter jar lid (no bigger than 3 1/2"). You can build whatever you want, in any scale you want, but it must fit on the lid and not hang off. We will have a cylinder we will slide over the model to make sure it conforms to the rules. For those of us in the larger scales, this will be a real challenge. For others like Tom Browning (Z Scale), you can almost build a layout. (Hint Tom, I didn't see a Z Scale outhouse last year so I am expecting something this year to test the judges' eyes.)

Those are the basic rules and the entries will be judged with the rest of the models using the NMRA scores and LSR Rules. It can be in any category, so please let us know when you are entering that it is also in the "Houston Special" contest.

Like last year, special awards will be given out to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners based on the highest scoring models from all categories. You have plenty of time for planning and building, so lets fill the contest room again. If you have question please give me a call 979-696-8862 or email me at crlind@tamu.edu.

See you in Houston '08.

Company Store

	HO		N-Scale
Casey Lines	OUT		$ 5.00
Texas & African	$5.00		OUT
Waco Austin & Bryan	$5.00		$ 5.00
Anniversary Car 1951	OUT	per set	$35.00
Anniversary Cars 2001	OUT	per set	$35.00
ITC - Bob Clarke	$10.00	per set	$35.00
Quin Lines	$12.00		

Check your layout and be sure you have one of each *special run* Region car. If not we can take care of the shortage post haste.

Other items available

Cloth Region Patches	$5.00 each
Auto/Window Region Decal	$ .50
N Scale Nevadun Decals	$2.00 per sheet
HO&N Scale Daw Cha Southern Decals	$3.00 per sheet

Shipping

Please add $5.00 for up to 3 cars and add $1.00 for patches and decals

Eunice Linda, Dispatcher
3028 Cumberland
Waco, TX 76707-1219
254-754-5535
E-mail: jlinda@hot.rr.com

Mastering Modeling - Extra Fare Hands On Progressive Clinic FAQ's

By Tracy Mitchell MMR

You probably have read in the convention write up that I will be putting on a "Special" Clinic for the LSR this year. Loren Neufeld, the convention chair, approached me back in 2006 about doing something really different for the 08 convention. He proposed this Hands On Progressive Clinic idea to me. At first I was taken aback by the idea, but the more I thought about it, the more intriguing it became. What really intrigued me about this concept was why Loren picked me to put it together? He informed me that I was one of the few Houstonians that have mastered all the techniques needed to accomplish this task. He also informed me that I put on a great show. By then I could feel my chest puffing out a little farther and my head swelling. It all came crashing down with what he said next…. Besides all the other ones that can do the job as well as you, will, or have been, asked to perform other duties for the convention.

As I started putting together this concept several question kept popping up. These questions were coming at me from other modelers involved in the convention, potential students, and even the other modelers I was picking for my team. Here are the FAQ's that were asked and I thought I would pass them on to you. These might help make up your mind if you want to sign up for this special clinic.

So what is exactly an Extra Fare Hands on Progressive clinic? This is a clinic where you, the attendee, pay the convention, the privilege of building something (in this case a HO scale, 12 x 18 diorama) all by yourself with the training from qualified people during the convention. We think it is the chance of a lifetime if you want to advance your modeling skills.

This is not a new concept. It has been tried with success all across the NMRA, and even here in the LSR. What sets this off from other projects like these, is that you will learn how to build a complete model display with all the techniques and skills that go into making a display, not just one single aspect of modeling. You can take it home for further study, and apply those concepts you learned on your own layout. This clinic will teach you or improve your modeling skills in such wide and varied topics such as super detailing, scenery, weathering, track laying, and many other techniques

So what are the pros and cons to this? The down side is the fact that you do have to fork over money, and you will give up some precious convention time to do this. You more than likely will not be able to attend some of the operating sessions, prototype tours, or the Super Bus Tour that you might want to be a part of. As best we could, the convention staff has tried to put together the schedule so as not to interfere with too many of the activities. You will still be able to go on some self guided layout tours, the BBQ at Zube Park, and attend other hotel related activities such as clinics, the contest room, and the auction. We also tried to make each one a "stand alone clinic" in the event that an individual will want to attend something else, but still wants to learn a specific modeling technique. For example if they want to take the Super Bus Tour they can. All they will miss is the decaling and weathering of a freight car. They will still learn how to make a display. Sleep deprivation is a concern as well. We will be staying up late, followed by an early morning session. This could be a good thing to learn in the event you might want to power build models. TNT performed this feat when we were entering 25+ models in the contest, and the deadline was fast approaching. The pluses are hopefully you come out of this with more modeling skills in your repertoire. You get to spend time with others that want to learn the same as you do. You will also get to know more knowledgeable people better. The main thing is you get a lasting friendship when you go through one of these. This applies to both the pupils as well as the teachers.

Session 1 – Wed 7PM – Introduction and Planning. These are the topics that will be discussed and taught. Plan the concept of the display. You will figure out where structures, track, roads, terrain, (manmade and natural) features will be located. You will pick out what structure you want to center your display around… then again you might decide to not include a structure and have only scenery. You will create Roadbed, lay track and form some scenery. Tree making will also be done during this session.

Session 2 – Thurs 8AM – During this early morning session, we will **c**ontinue terrain work including making mud (applying dirt and ground cover). We will ballast track and add roads. We will prepare details (autos, figures, etc) to be added later. During this session most of the glue will be applied. This is to allow the display to dry before we hit it again Friday night.

Session 3 – Fri 8AM – Structure Detailing. We will start with a Styrene structure already built. This is something that you would find in a vendor room for sale. We will show how to take that structure and add what I call "dressing" to the model. You will learn how to distress the wood siding, peel paint, and add brick mortar fast and easy. We will also add Window Dressing (curtains, drapes, broken windows). We will also show how to add roofing material (tar paper, gravel, or paper shingles). As you know most commercial kits have roofs that lack realism. Finally we will show how to make signs from magazines and apply them to the structure.

Session 4 – Fri 7PM – Putting it all together. This is the final step for the display. By now everything should be pretty much done and all that will be needed is to blend it all together. To do this, we will add figures , vehicles, ground foam, trees, weeds, and other details. We will also show how to incorporate the structure into the display without having it be, what I call the "Dorothy" effect.

Session 5 – Sat 8AM – Decal a caboose and weather a freight car. This final session will be how to decal a caboose. The decals we will be using are the convention decals of the Downe and Owulte RR of Ben Pearlman. The caboose will be pre-painted. We will show how to decal and seal the decals on the caboose. As an added bonus, you will also weather a freight car without the use of an airbrush. We will use Prismacolored pencils and vinegar as well as the Bragdon weathering chalks. When done with this session you will have a caboose and a weathered freight car to add to your collection.

What do I need to bring with me? While some of the basic modeling tools will be provided, **it might be a good idea to bring some of your own in a small tool box.** (X Acto, scale ruler, tweezers, etc) Be advised you will be working on a round table and might have to share a specific tool with the group you are in. If you have trouble seeing, and who doesn't these days, you should bring along your Optivisors. Otherwise, everything else will be provided. All the glues, structures, scenery base, dirt, ground cover, detail parts, track, etc, will be provided. It will also help to bring your thinking cap.

Who is teaching me how to do this? I have searched far and wide for the best modelers, well at least the Houston area, and I think I found a broad spectrum of modelers to assist me. The staff that I have come up with is Bill Reid, custom painter extraordinaire, Larry May, a great track layer, and Walter Pasciak, a model craftsmen, that excels in structure building and detailing. I also asked several MMR's to help as what I call "Floaters". These floaters will be walking around and assisting anyone that needs a little help in grasping the concept we are teaching.

I didn't sign up, but can I still watch and learn? Of course you can. You just won't be able to be a part of the hands on part. But you can still grasp the concepts through osmosis. This will be a great place to rest your feet and keep an eye out on the progress of the display during each session.

Can I work on my project after hours? Yes you can. As long as the main banquet room is open, you can work on your display. Be advised during these off times, there might be a teacher around and then again maybe not.

How do I sign up? It's as easy as filling out the extra fare section of the registration form…. $25 for all five sessions or $10 for each individual session. If you have already signed up for the convention, but now want to join in the fun, contact the registrar to get on the official list. Although I would not recommend this, you can take a chance that the clinic still has slots available when you arrive for the convention.

Up The Track

By Bill Dryden

Here is the list of the upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA *Scale Rails* and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via email at bdr149@airmail.net. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. **The upcoming events:**

LSR Convention: Houston, TX

Lone Star Region 57th Annual Convention

The Lone Star Region NMRA 57th Annual Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Houston Southwest beginning Wednesday, June 18th and continuing through Sunday morning, June 22nd. The Holiday Inn is located at 11160 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77031; (Hwy 59 S at Beltway 8); (281) 530-1400; rooms are $75. Other details are being worked out and will be added as the details become more firm — Check the LSR website. **Come all!! PARTICIPATE!!!**

Recurring events and meetings:

DFW Area Lionel Modular Group Meeting Plano

The DFW Lionel Modular Group meets the second Monday of the month at 6:45 p.m. in the Gladys Harrington Library; 1501 East 18th St.; Plano, TX. For more information call (972) 422-4330.

LSR Division 3-Northeast Texas Division-Garland

Nicholson Memorial Library, 625 Austin St., Garland, TX third Saturday of each month. For more information contact Duane Richardson (duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com) or check the Division 3 Page on the LSR website

Houston Area Live Steamers Hockley

Come enjoy free train rides on our 7,500 feet of 7½-inch gauge track. Public run days are the 3rd Saturday of the month March thru November. US Hwy 290 and Roberts Road; Times are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. We can always open special days for Model Railroaders. For more info go to www.hals.org or contact Peter Bryan at peterb@ppdq.net

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs Meeting Irving

The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the third Tuesday of the month. Visit the NTC website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or its member clubs. All model railroaders welcome.

Events and Shows:

April 1st – May 31st — **4th Annual Train Show** (The Scott Free Model Railroaders) Mon. - Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sun. 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission Free (Donations accepted) Carson County Square House Museum; 409 Elsie St.; Panhandle, TX Contact: Skip Smith (806) 537-3382

May 17th — **Lone Star TCA Meet**
Sat. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $6; Family $9
New Braunfels Civic Center; 380 Seguin St.; New Braunfels, TX Contact: Pat Halpin at (210) 661-4238

17th – 18th — **Galveston Railroad Museum Train Show**
Galveston Museum Website: http://www.galvestonrrmuseum.com/event.htm

23rd – 24th — **24 Hours at Saginaw**
Saginaw Depot; Saginaw Information: wgcrush@swbell.net

25th — **28th Lonestar Railfair**, Fort Worth
Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Amon G. Carter Exhibit Hall, Will Rogers Memorial Center; Ft. Worth, TX
Info: Terry Adams; Phone (817) 732-2117; rtadams1@sbcglobal.net

June

16th – 22nd — **Lone Star Rails 2008** (NRHS, Fort Worth Chapter)
Website: www.lonestarrails2008.com

18th – 22nd — **Lone Star Region 57th Annual Convention**, Houston (Other details above, below, well *EVERYWHERE* in this issue)

28th – 29th — **Texas Hill Country Rail Fair & Festival**
Burnett (Sorry Folks, but this is ALL I could find)

July

13th – 19th — **NMRA Convention**, "The Anaheim Special"
Contact: http://as2008.org and see information in *Scale Rails*

19th – 20th — **6th Annual Balcones Heights Crossroads Family Train Show**
Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sun. 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adult $6; Family $9 Crossroads Mall Mall (SW quadrant of IH-10 and IH-410, NW side of San Antonio) Contact: Paul Lawler (210) 218-4872; e-mail pplawler@sbcgobal.net www.samratx.org

August 16th — **15th Annual Summer Model Train Show**
Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
New Braunfels Civic Center; 380 S. Seguin Street; New Braunfels, TX
Contact Brian Weidner, lonestarrailway@yahoo.com

October

4th – 5th — **Alamo Model Railroad Engineers 20th Annual Train Show**
Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $6 or Family $9; Children 12-18 $1; Under 12 Free Live Oak Civic Center; 8101 Pat Booker Road; Live Oak, TX Table Sale and information: amreshow@satx.rr.com; or call (210) 355-2777

7th – 12th — **Circus Model Builders and Carnival Historical & Model Builders National Gathering**
Schedule and Registration information can be found on website Lockheed/Martin Recreational Area; 3400 Bryant Irvin Road; Ft. Worth Website: http://www.circusmodelbuilders.com/schedule08.htm
Contact: Bob Bray (817) 249-4965 or e-mail: brayrlja@sbcglobal.net

11th – 12th — **LMRA 26th Model Train Show**
Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 am. to 5:00 p.m. Adults $6, Children 10 and Under Free w/ Adult ticket Lockheed/Martin Recreational Area; 3400 Bryant Irvin Road; Ft. Worth Contact: http://www.lmra.org/activity.html

For the Narrow Minded…

By Duane Richardson, MMR

To most, the NMRA means model trains. We think of our models and layouts but one of the biggest benefits is the friends we make. As modelers, we share a bond that transcends age, race, gender and geographic location. This point was illustrated to me about 10 years ago while I was a member of a club in the Dallas area. I spent a couple of hours one afternoon with two of the club members just hanging out. We talked trains mostly but the conversations lead this way and that.

Now, for those of you who don't know me, I'm usually the youngest guy in the room whenever modelers get together. In fact, short of our youth members, I will be either the youngest or within the top 4 or 5 at the convention this year. Having grown up in the hobby I'm used to it. For me, it's a way of life. It wasn't until that afternoon's conversation that it really hit home the friendships that are made in this hobby. There just aren't that many things that can be done by all generations and be enjoyed equally by all. Model railroading is one of those blessed few that can.

In joining the NMRA, going to conventions and train shows, I have met people from all over and we are able to share our hobby. People you have never met face to face are willing to open their homes to show off what they have built. To expand this even further, the Internet has now taken this globally. I have a new friend in Australia and we are mailing things back and forth to share in what we do. Email and Online video via web cameras has opened this up in a whole new way.

Where is he going with all of this? It's these friendships that took a new turn for me when 4 of us from here in the LSR joined together to take a road trip to Durango, CO for the Annual Winter Photographers special. Chuck Lind, Tracy Mitchell, Gordon Larson and yours truly left from College Station and drove to almost Lubbock on the first day. The chatter in the truck was constant as we traded stories and in general poked fun at one another.

The next day it was on to Chama, NM for a stop at the yard and a drive up Cumbres Pass. Now, if you haven't seen that area in winter it is a real treat. There were places where I had to stand on the tailgate of the truck see up over the snow. The yard at Chama was blanketed in several feet of snow as the railroad slept for the winter. In most places the target on the switch stands barely stood out of the snow.

On the way to Durango the next day we also stopped by the Gomez Store that looked very peaceful in its new surroundings. We also stopped to visit a friend, that we had met over the Internet, who invited us up to see his layout. After a brief visit it was on into Durango.

We got into town in time to go out and chase the train back before we had to check in for the special night shoot. Normally, when it is 15 degrees outside you can't pry me out of the house. In this case there was a steam engine involved so we spent about an hour outside taking some once in a lifetime pictures of 486 sitting on the turntable.

The next morning was just as cold but our home for the day warmed up quickly. Thanks to an early booking we had our 4 seats in caboose 0540. Once the fire was lit in the stove the caboose warmed up nicely (even with us leaning out the windows of the cupola taking pictures). The railroad had gone out the day before and cleared out some narrow trenches in the snow so we could form our photographer's lines. Since we weren't going out very far on the line we had at least 2 run-bys at each location and we had time to get into different positions between runs.

As the day went on the temp came up and it made the times away from our warm seats easier and easier to take. Ok, who am I kidding? It was a narrow gauge steam train running through the snow. I doubt I even thought about the temperature until later in the day when I noticed I was getting hot.

The last run-by of the day was set up on the High Line. The other three decided to stay on the train and took pictures of some switching in Rockwood. I got off and stood on the cliff side for several minutes while this was going on and just enjoyed the moment. Seeing the High Line from the window of your passenger car is an awe inspiring moment but to stand there and just look out over the edge of the cliff, listening to the river run by, is something else.

Sadly, as all good things do, our train ride came to an end and 4 tired and soot-covered friends grabbed a steak dinner and settled in for the night. The next day we started the drive home. We weren't as talkative on the way back as we had been on the way there. The excitement and anticipation of the ride was over and we were all looking forward to getting home.

There are several things I've always wanted to do when visiting Durango. High up on that list was that I've always wanted to ride in the winter; I've always wanted to ride in a caboose and sit in the cupola as it goes across the High Line. I managed to do all three in one trip. It was a great 5 days and I have the 1,200+ photos to prove it. It's not often that 4 friends of such varied ages can have such a good time and survive traveling together. For me it was my first time back in the high country in almost 10 years and it was good to recharge my batteries in such a dramatic way. The grandeur of the mountains and seeing what man had to do to lay tracks through all of it is inspiring. It really feeds the soul. My thanks go out to my traveling buddy's for sharing the time with me. I look forward to doing it all over again.

Until next time...keep the boiler full, the fires hot and the wheels on the rails.

Jack Leming

As I was going to press I just learned of the death of Jack Leming. Jack was 80 at the time of his death. He was active in the NMRA and the Lone Star Region serving as Director and also as a former editor.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

by Elbert Smith

For the period of January 1 through March 31, 2008:

Beginning Checking Account	$9,327.46
Vanguard Money Market Accts Total	$39,506.12
Funds Held For Div. 1 (Not LSR Funds)	$1,551.56
Total LSR Net Worth – All Accounts	$47,282.02

Checking Account Income

Ad, Pike	24.00
Division 1 Income	474.40
Division 3 Income	225.60
NMRA Dues Received	109.45
NMRA Region Rebate	1,003.00
Vanguard MM (CD Fund)	342.34
Vanguard MM (Convention Fund)	110.25
Subtotal	$2,289.04

Checking Account Disbursements

Convention Seed Money for 2009	1,000.00
Division 1 Expense	35.29
Marker Lamp Print & Mail	1,373.28
Membership Expense	134.41
NMRA Dues Remitted to NMRA	109.45
Transfer to Vanguard (CD Fund)	6,000.00
Youth Program	24.00
Subtotal	$8,676.43

Ending Checking Account	$2,940.07
Vanguard Money Market Accts Total	$45,506.12
Funds Held For Div. 1 (Not LSR Funds)	$1,990.67
Funds Held For Div. 3 (Not LSR Funds)	$225.60
Total LSR Net Worth – All Accounts	$46,230.32

Total NMRA/LSR Membership inside the LSR area at the end of March was 1022. Two years ago, the total NMRA/LSR membership inside the LSR was 984.

New Members – Please take note of the 48 new NMRA/LSR members reported to us by the NMRA in January through March. They're listed alphabetically by state and by city to help you identify those who may live in your area. When you run into them, say hello, and invite them to attend your Division's activities

George Schumacher, Abita Springs, LA
Stephen Peters, Alexandria, LA
Charles Guidroz, Baton Rouge, LA
Jamie Aquilard, Baton Rouge, LA
Thomas Hunt, Greenwell Springs, LA
Benjamin Lee Lucas, Lafayette, LA
David Scott, Lafayette, LA
Glenn Carl, River City, LA
Patrick Hiatte, Argyle, TX
Wayne Meaux, Beaumont, TX
Jim Howell, Brownwood, TX
David Dane, Burleson, TX
Randolph Garner, Cleburne, TX
Rickey Allinen, Corsicana, TX
Jim Eckhouse, Dallas, TX
John Osborn, Dallas, TX
Mike Wagner, Dallas, TX
Roy Stockard, Dallas, TX
Douglas Stiles, Deer Park, TX
Nicholas Stevens, Forney, TX
Shannon Stevens, Forney, TX
Lorrie Palitti, Fort Worth, TX
Keith Goodnight, Frisco, TX
Marc Turner, Galveston, TX
Claude Doane, Garland, TX
Shawn Scontrino, Garland, TX
Bill Pierrard, Houston, TX
Glenn Phillips, Houston, TX
Phillip Senneff, Houston, TX
Alan Pope, Irving, TX
Rob Couch, Irving, TX
William Metzroth, Lake Jackson, TX
J Dischert, Lewisville, TX
Christopher Wolf, Missouri City, TX
Chuck Day, Montgomery, TX
Greg Kostrzewa, Murphy, TX
George Bohn, Orange, TX
Paul Armes, Plainview, TX
Ronald Fairbrother, Plano, TX
Jack Aenchbacher, Plano, TX
Conrad Kester, Richardson, TX
Mike Jobe, Royse City, TX
Spencer Pattison, Royse City, TX
Michael Tracy, Sachse, TX
Raqandy Handley, Spring, TX
Craig Whitacre, Spring, TX
Tommie White, Terrell, TX
Mark Herzog, The Woodlands, TX

LADIES ONLY!
Petticoat Junction

2008 LSR Convention Non-Rail Activities: There will be a full slate of activities to keep you busy.

At present we have the following "make and take" Non-Rail Clinics scheduled:

Cookies in a Jar *by Julia Davis*
Painting Wooden Santas *by Laurie Lind*
Wire Angels *by Norma Brignac*
Greeting Cards *by Diane Wilson*
Go with Everything Jewelry *by Patti Bullard*
Flower Arrangments for your Home *by Brenda Dickey*

We plan to have samples to view beforehand with Sign-up Sheets. If there are any Supply Fees, they will be noted on the Sign-up Sheets.

A Shopping/Lunch trip to Old Town Spring will be on Friday. So wear your walking shoes and bring your credit cards.

Other surprises are in the works.

Don't forget to be working on your Arts & Crafts contest entry...the clock is ticking. There is a category for whatever you wish to make. All types of medium are welcome.

Railroadiana
General
Theme: Houston Rodeo

Virginia Freitag-Non-Rail Chair

FROM THE PAST (Summer 1993)

By Jim Long, MMR LSR Historian

The Annual Lone Star Region Convention will be held at the Green Oaks Inn in Fort Worth on June 10-12, 1983. If you have not yet registered, just send the $35.00 registration fee to Bob Jones in Fort Worth.

Speaking of conventions, the First National Convention for N Scale will be held in Houston at the Stauffer Hotel on August 11-14, 1983. There will be about twenty seven or more clinics from making it to running it. There will also be layout visitations, an auction, awards, modules, and a banquet. Anyone willing to help in the clinics, contests, or whatever, step forward to offer your knowledge or labor – contact Greg Johnson in Houston.

Bob Clarke of San Antonio gave a few hints in painting your models to create a natural look on you models.

TO ACHIEVE	**TRY THIS** (Floquill)
Other than fresh rust	Rail Brown
Aged iron	1:1 ratio antique bronze and grime black
Aged white	Antique white
Weathered wood	Grime or Driftwood
Rotted Wood	Thinned Roof Brown
Bricks	Rust and Boxcar Red mix
Tints of a color (lighten)	add White
Shades of a color (darken)	add black or dark grey
Tones of a color (dull)	add black and white

The San Jacinto Mode; Railroad Club in Houston has a new Secretary-Treasurer, John Ellis III – seems like Don Bozman is traveling too much (probably with the club funds like a former Secy-Tres who always seemed to end up with a brass engine at audit time). Club Editor John Marshall also reports that the Houston Society of Model Engineers is finally relocated in Pearland.

The San Antonio Model Railroad Association said that they planned for 350-400 to show up at their January 2 jamboree, not the 100 plus that responded to the local media coverage.

It was noted that 100 years ago (1883) a bill was introduced in the Connecticut Legislature imposing a fine of $250 on any railroad company that fails to deliver its passengers at stations on scheduled times.

Cowcatcher Division 1

by Chris Atkins

By the time you receive this, I'm sure the weather will be a lot warmer, but as I write in mid April the Spring temperatures are calling me to get outside and leave the modeling behind for another spring. Sadly, I didn't get as much done in the past winter as I had hoped. In March, I packed up most of my layout and moved it to storage.

Many of you know that my moderate sized layout was mostly in my formal living room. Last fall, I expanded it into my office, with plans of rebuilding the older parts. Well, as time goes on, my layout space becomes more and more a part of my kids' activities, and less of a train room. Also, we now have a two year old son who not only loves Dad's trains, but also loves to climb on top of the layout to get at them better.

Luckily I built the layout using the modular domino technique made popular by David Barrows. Once the track was gone, it was just a matter of unbolting the sections and loading them in a U-Haul truck. I'm sure in a couple of years, the boy will have matured enough to set that section back up, but in the mean time, I still have the newer section in my office.

In March, the 2009 convention committee met at Jerry Hoverson's house in McKinney. Among topics discussed were a Convention Theme, a Guest Speaker, a possible train ride, a local layout to honor, prototype tours and the budget. The Non-rail committee also met at the same time. The 2009 convention is moving forward, but there definitely room for your help. The next meeting has not been scheduled, but we are going to make an effort to find a place more convenient to our Ft. Worth members; perhaps in the mid-cities.

It seems like the Spring quarter has become full of out of town operating activities. In February, a group from the Cowcatcher Division went to Kansas City to participate in Prairie Rails. Then in March, a similar group went to Arkansas to Hog Rails. Three of the Hog Rails coordinators have moved to Arkansas from the DFW area: John McBee and Doug Farner from Division 3 and Norm Bruce from Division 1. Later in April, another large group from the area will attend Pro Rail in Houston.

If you have an event you would like to share with the division, send me an email at chris@railroadmodelers.com and you can report on it here, or I can post a note at cowcatcherdivision.com. One event that I know about that I am unable to attend is the Wednesday Lunch Bunch at the Railhead Bar-B-Q in Ft. Worth.

Division 1 is still looking for a youth to submit to Tom Browning, the Youth Chairman. If you have a child or

grandchild that is especially interested in model railroading, please let me know so I can get his/her name to Tom. Every year, each division nominates a child to the board, and the children receive a free membership to the NMRA. This is a great opportunity to introduce a young person to the hobby and our organization.

The February meeting of Division 1 was not quite as exciting as our field trip last fall, but a good group got together to talk trains at the LMRA building. I'm always happy to see group involvement in these meetings. The next meeting will be held May 17 at 10AM in Room 1 of the LMRA administration building - 3400 Bryant-Irvin Rd., Ft. Worth, TX 76109. Keep an eye on the division website at cowcatcherdivision.com for more information about the meeting.

Thanks, and we'll see you all in Houston in June.

Bayou Division 2

by Jack Green

What a great train ride these past 4 years have been as Director of Division 2 (Bayou Division) in fun filled south Louisiana. When I jokingly ask Marvin Ackermann, the sitting director for the previous 14 years, if he was ready to retire from the position, he said, "are you seriously interested?" I said I was and he said he was, and the rest is history.

I quote from my first quarterly Marker Lamp report: "*Two of my goals will be to feature LSR members and layouts in the Division as well as events and functions of these groups; such as operating sessions, open houses and show appearances. Of course, I will depend on input as to the dates and nature of these events*." I diligently tried to fulfill these two goals to the best of my ability and passion. Most of all, each and every one of the people I have asks to furnish input and/or articles about the division have done so with enthusiasm and character. I would call or email various folks around the division and say "write me something up about your layout or club for the Marker Lamp's next issue". Within days I would have something to include in my write-up. Some of the Division's members have been featured. Events like Louisiana Rail Run have been highlighted. Some, but not all of those responding with help and assistance during this period were: Lou Schultz, Jim Lofland, John Coiron, Mike Poche and James Clark. Especially a heartfelt appreciation goes to Bob Schilling for his assistance in nominating the applicants for the youth program each year.

Recently, Tim Blackwell called to inquire why I was not running for re-election. My was response is well documented in his latest Cowcatcher. What I want to add here is that I did not want to homestead or die of old age in this capacity of Director. There are many waiting in the wings that need and deserve to carry this torch in the future. It is a great stepping stone for work towards the coveted MMR. That is in the true spirit that my service was passed on to Dick Schneider and I hope that he fulfills this spirit as well.

The past 4 years have been rather unique to me and my family. The Katrina experience made true believers about the power of spiritual forces. Although the Crescent City Model Railroad Club was spared major damage in their facility, the loss of the members' homes and work places was beyond belief. Another crippling event during my tenure was the sudden death of my only son in September 2006 from a massive heart attack at age 42. My trains gave me brief periods of relief from the sadness my family and I endured.

I will retire to the small world of the Midsouth Model Railroad Club. We are implementing an "open to all" Operating Schedule with sessions from 1-5 on the first Saturday in the even months, August 2, October 4 and December 6 for the remainder of 2008. Our doors are always open for special visits, just email and we will set something up. Thanks again to the Membership of the Lone Star Region for the friendships we have made and we will continue to keep those alive and well.

North East Texas Division 3

by Duane Richardson, MMR

Thanks to a great turnout this year at the Plano train show, and that Division 1 Director Chris Akins got a second show share for us to split, we now have a little money in the Division 3 account. Not that we have any plans for it just yet but I thought you might like to know. The show was well attended and my thanks go out to a couple of guys whose hard work was evident in our success. Tom Browning, my ever present right hand man, and Larry Swigert jumped in and really went the extra mile for the LSR. Between the two of them we have signed up several new members. In fact, I believe the last count was around 15.

We have also been promoting our Division Meetings, and with the support of our local hobby shops, our attendance has grown into the 40's each month. We have been and will continue to hold clinics in conjunction with our local shops to help further the hobby's growth in our area. My thanks go out to HobbyTown USA at Walnut Hill and Discount Model Trains for their efforts that have helped to take Division 3 to a new level.

Our monthly meetings still host at least one clinic each month on a variety of subjects. If there is something that you want to learn, please send me an email and let me know. We'll work to find somebody with a background in that subject and get a clinic scheduled. If you have a subject that you would like to share with the group please offer to do so. Besides being a great way to help others learn from what you have done it's a great way to pick up a few pointers from others.

I've learned almost as much in teaching clinics as I have in just attending them.

If you haven't made plans to attend the upcoming convention in Houston you should. The train ride and dinner at Zube Park will be a lot of fun. There are tons of great layouts to see and clinics to attend. The conventions there are always a lot of fun and not to be missed. I hope to see you all there. Another draw is that Division 3 will once again be represented with a new Master Model Railroader at the convention supper. In fact, if all his paperwork makes it through in time, we'll have 2! In fact, going back to the Ft. Worth Convention in '05, Division 3 has 7 new MMR's.

For anybody who noticed that April has come and gone and there wasn't any talk of the Annual Division Meet that's because we have moved it. Our show at the library in '06 was such a hit that we decided to move the Annual Meet to the fall. We will have more information as it becomes available but we hope to have a couple of local clubs set up for the weekend as well as a modeling contest and a few clinics.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Cen-Tex Division 4

by Bob Alson, Jr.

No report received

Division 5

by Dave Lamberts

No report received

Division 6

by Fred Bock, MMR

Welcome aboard to Division 6's two new NMRA Youth Scholarship awardees: **William Watkins** and **Al Arriaga**. William is a new HO modeler (with his dad, **Bill Watkins**) and Al has been working with N-trak and T-trak for a couple of years (with his "Granny", **Charlotte Boord**).. They look to be worthy of carrying on the high standards set by their predecessors **Joe Mackin** and **John Stabe**. Happy railroading and best wishes from us all!

By the time you read this, the **New Braunfels Historical Railroad & Modelers' Society** (NBHR&MS) annual Spring Train Show in New Braunfels will be history. One of the feature events planned was the first-ever "T-trak of Texas" statewide meet, with N-scale T-track (table-top N-trak) layouts being brought from all parts of the state and assembled into a mammoth T-trak layout. **Jim Ladd** of **San Antonio N-trak** (SANTRAK) is coordinating the layout design and power arrangements as of this writing.

The **Texas Transportation Museum** (TTM) in partnership with the "T Fords of Texas" will be putting on a one day only event on Saturday 10th May, 2008 to celebrate 100 years of the Ford Model T. Admission to the museum that day is free. For more information go to http://www.txtransportationmuseum/org/ModelTatTTM.htm.

TTM will also have it's first-in-a-long-time exhibit at the **Texas Folklife Festival** on the grounds of the Institute of Texan Culture the weekend prior to the annual LSR Convention. As currently planned, the Museum's 1915 Model TT pickup truck wlll be on display with an operating 4'X6' HO layout in the bed.

The same layout will be on display the following weekend in Houston during the LSR Convention. **Tom Crosthwait** and I will be using it for demonstrations for our "Introduction to Operations" clinics during the convention.

In mid-July, the **San Antonio Model Railroad Association** (SAMRA) will hold it's annual Summer Train Show at Crossroads Mall in San Antonio. Check "Up the Track" in either the "Marker Lamp" or the LSR website for further information.

SAMRA will also hold another of it's successful Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge Clinics the weekend prior to the Summer Train Show. They've held the clinic twice since they initiated it last December, both times with good results. Check the SAMRA website (http://www.trainweb.org/samra/) for further information.

The **Alamo Model Railroad Engineers** (A.M.R.E.) will host it's 20th annual Train Show on Saturday, 4 October (9am-5pm) and Sunday, 5 October (11am-4pm) at the Live Oak

Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Road, Live Oak (northeast San Antonio). The show will include "How To" clinics, layouts, and movies of historic railroads, in addition to vendors from all over the country. See "Up the Track" ("Marker Lamp" or LSR Website) or the AMRE website (http://www.txtransportationmuseum.org/AMREB.htm) for further information.

On a personal note: I've been running a trial cooperative partnership program with **Matt Halbert**, manager of the Model Railroad Department at Hobbytown USA, San Antonio for the past 6 weeks.

Matt keeps a good-sized display of NMRA information and handouts on the principal display case customers see as they enter the department. He also has a table set up for me every Saturday morning right next to their N-scale demo layout. Each Saturday, I spend several hours at the table (as an unpaid volunteer) with my toolkit working on a project and talking to customers who wander by and ask "What are you working on?" (Currently a scratchbuilt cattle pen). This gives me a chance to talk to them about the hobby, the NMRA, the Achievement Program (I wear my MMR shirt), and local clubs in the area where they can meet like-minded folks. So far I've referred people to all of the clubs in the San Antonio area.

The way I see it, this co-op arrangement is good all 'round: it promotes the hobby, answers questions, gives customers ideas, promotes the NMRA, and publicizes local clubs.

That's all for this quarter, folks. Hope to see many of you at the Lone Star Region convention in Houston this June!

Division 7

by Don Kimmell

Hello from North Louisiana. I hope everyone has had a good winter, productive and fun.

We are in the midst of the spring trains show season. By the time you will read this the only two "local" shows will be over, but I shall only report on the Longview JETTS Show. As usual, Homer and his great folks did their usual wonderful job; they really need to write a book on how to put on a train show. There were over 600 paid adults, and almost that many children in attendance, and a good many left with bags, the Vendors were happy, and the various modular clubs were happy, in fact the only unhappy folks were the janitors…a bit of a mess to clean up! The Ark-La-Tex club had a great time, spent some money and entertained a number of folks, so we really enjoyed it. The Spring Creek folks have been making some great progress on their layout, each year I see it, I marvel at the progress that they have made. Way to go!

By the time you read this, the Annual Cotton Belt Tyler Tap Train Show will be history, it will have been the weekend of 26-27 April, and this is another very enjoyable small show, so put in on your calendar for next year.

Upcoming events have to include the Convention down in Houston, Iron Horse '08. As everyone is aware, this will be our 57th convention. So I expect to see a great number of friends there during June 18 thru the 22. The list of Clinics is awesome! And the tours, what can be said there, let alone the "Super Layout Tour"—WOW. I really hope to see you there.

The Ark-La-Tex Club will be doing their usual two weeks at The Shriner's Hospital this June—7th thru 28th—so if you are in the neighborhood, stop on by and play trains.

Short report this time, got to finish my taxes, so see you in Houston.

Texas Gulf Division 8

by Ray Byer

The division is running right along for the first quarter of the year. We are trying new things at each monthly meeting. For next month's meeting (May) we are having a clinic on how to enter a model for judging. This will help people in Division 8 to get their models ready for this year convention. Did I say convention? If you have not sign up for this year's convention, then you will not be able to have all the fun, clinic and prototype tours that will be going on in Houston in June. So sign up early and get the great deals for the early sign up. Looking forward to seeing all of you at Houston for this year's convention.

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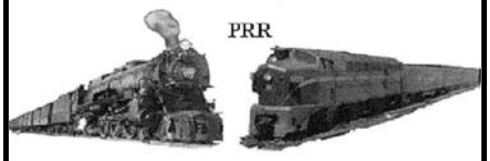

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SAMRA

The San Antonio Model Railroad Association

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